

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SYE-00 /006 W
-----086190 061833Z /64
P 061724Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9141
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 10351

SY CHANNEL

DEPT FOR A/SY/OPS, T AND FO

FRANKFURT FOR RSS AND RTC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: REPORTED POSSIBLE LISTENING DEVICE IN AMBASS-
ADOR'S RESIDENCE

REF: 70 STATE CA-766

A. SUMMARY - TN FRIDAY, JUNE 2, RSO WAS INFORMED THAT TWO DAYS EARLIER (WEDNESDAY, MAY 31) TWO EMBASSY CONTRACT ELECTRICIANS HAD DISCOVERED A FLOOR PLUG WHICH CONTAINED WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS A LISTENING DEVICE. TWO ELECTRICIANS FAILED TO REPORT SOONER BECAUSE THEY QTE GOT BUSY UNQTE BUT AFTER REFLECTION DID DECIDE BEST TO INFORM RSO. DURING INVESTIGATION, JUNE 2, TWO CONTRACT ELECTRICIANS SWEAR VEHEMENTLY THAT INNOCUOUS ALL-WOOD FLOOR PLUG ON FRIDAY MARKEDLY DIFFERS FROM SUSPICIOUS FLOOR PLUG WEDNESDAY, WHICH THEY VIVIDLY DESCRIBED WITH FOUR COLORED WIRES, A METAL CYLINDER OR BRACKET, AND THE LOOK OF A SPEAKER. RTC PERSONNEL ARRIVED RAPIDLY ON SCENE FRIDAY, AND
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CONDUCTED TECHNICAL INSPECTION WITH NO SINISTER FINDINGS. RTC/TSO ROHRER'S REPORT AND SEPARATE RSO NARRATIVE REPORT WILL BE SENT ASAP. END SUMMARY.

B. PER PARA B OF REF, DETAILS ARE:

(1) DISCOVERED ABOUT NOON, WED., MAY 31;

REPORTED 0845, FRI., JUNE 2.

(2) COM RESIDENCE, MAIN FLOOR, SMALL SITTING ROOM.
(3) IN A FLOOR PLUG WHICH CAPPED A HOLE, THROUGH WHICH TELEPHONE CABLES CAN BE CONNECTED/DISCONNECTED DEPENDING ON WHETHER FURNITURE IS IN ROOM OR NOT, BASED ON REPRESENTATIONAL USE OF ROOM. HOLE IS NOT CAPPED WHEN FURNITURE IS IN PLACE; THEN HOLE IS COVERED BY SOFA. WHEN FURNITURE IS OUT, TELEPHONE CABLE IS DROPPED INTO FLOOR RECEPTACLE AND HOLE IS COVERED BY WOOD CAP WITH GLUED MATCHING CARPET ON TOP.

(4) APPEARED TO BE A SPEAKER. SKETCH WILL BE FORWARDED.

(5) TWO EMBASSY CONTRACT ELECTRICIANS WERE REWIRING IN ROOM AND PICKED UP THE FLOOR PLUG.

(6) NA.

(7) NA.

(8) THE POLICY FOR AMERICAN STAFF IS NOT TO DISCUSS CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IN RESIDENCES. HOWEVER' GUESTS SOMETIMES DO RAISE SENSITIVE MATTERS.

(9) YES, BECAUSE THE FLOOR PLUG IN PLACE ON FRIDAY DOES NOT MATCH THE FLOOR PLUG DESCRIBED AS FOUND ON
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WEDNESDAY.

(10) PROBABLY ONE OF THE HOUSEHOLD STAFF AT THE RESIDENCE.

C. COMMENT: TWO HYPOTHESES APPEAR. FIRST, A LISTENING DEVICE WAS PRESENT WEDNESDAY BUT HAD BEEN REMOVED BY FRIDAY AND SUBSTITUTED BY THE INNOCUOUS FLOOR PLUG. THE ELECTRICIANS' TESTIMONY SUPPORTS THIS VIEW. BUT WE HAVE NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. THE SECOND HYPOTHESIS IS THAT THE ELECTRICIANS WERE MISTAKEN. THIS IS UNLIKELY BECAUSE OF THE VIVIDNESS OF THEIR RECOLLECTION.
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